

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is Patrick McKenna, President of Montana Association of Alternative Private Programs (MAAPP), President and founder of the Monarch School and Board member of the National Independent Private School Association (NIPSA). NIPSA is a national and international accreditation body. I'm writing you because I can't be present for the meeting today because I'm out of town. I wish I could be there to express personally my strong feelings for this Bill. I believe that any organization that works with kids or families in distress needs to have some oversight for the safety of the students and holding programs accountable to this.

As president of MAAPP and a Director of an accreditation body I support this Bill for what it brings to Montana. It allows for the continued support of the programs to better themselves and how they work with kids, as well holding them to account for their actions. It's a great start for the PAARP board to begin moving with mandatory licensure and regulation, both of which are needed for the continuing success of Montana programs.

There's one provision in section three that I would like amended. The need for programs to submit finger prints for the department to conduct background checks is redundant. Programs should be required to provide evidence that they have conducted a background check a rigorous as the states minimum requirements. We use ADP for all our employees because they have access to a national data base. They require the name and social security number to complete the search. For us have to pay for every employee to get finger printed and pay for our own search and then pay for the department to do the same seems to be a lot for the same results.

Thank you for you're time and all the hard you work I know you're doing. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 406-847-5095.

Sincerely,

Patrick McKenna